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ABSTRACT

This curriculum handbook is the first to offer a comprehensive professional day care training plan for older workers. The program targets potential child care workers over 55, in hopes of finding a progressive solution to the growing problem of locating accessible, affordable child care in the United States. The program offers older adults independence, income, and a sense of well-being from active involvement with children. Children's lives, in turn, can be enriched from the presence of older adults in the child care environment. The 100-hour curriculum consists of twenty-two 3-hour classroom modules on specific job-related topics. In addition to the modules, trainees receive at least 40 hours of on-the-job instruction at a local early childhood program. The practicum experiences are discussed at weekly one-hour seminars, guided by observations and exercises found in the "practicum track" section of the guide. Class size may range from 10 to 20 trainees, with the optimum class size suggested to be 15 students. Each of the 22 curriculum modules is a self-contained unit designed to be presented in one 3-hour block of time. Every module is divided into eight sections related to the preparation and implementation of the training procedures. The guide includes a list of 85 resources, a list of program materials, and a separate packet of program handouts. (TJQ)

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